

December 2008

Mountain News

Community news from Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious
<http://gloriousnebo.org.au/MTN/>

No trees were harmed by the sending of this newsletter
however a lot of electrons were slightly inconvenienced.



Go Wattle!

Do Your
Block!

FREE BUSHCARE SERVICE

Would you like some assistance managing bushland on your block, advice on weeds, or advice on planting local native plants in your garden?

MEPA has a free service offering advice and information (supported by PRSC)
(Contact Maggie - 3289 8175 or Dominic - 3289 0093)

FIRST AID TRAINING

available 7th February 2009

Senior First Aid
New
Refresher
CPR

for further details
Contact Daphne
3289 8319

BUSH FIRE WARNING SIREN TESTING

1ST WEDNESDAY
EACH MONTH
7.00 - 7.30PM

MICHELE HOBART

B.A., Dip. RM

REMEDIAL & SPORTS MASSAGE CENTRE
RELAXATION - SEATED CHAIR MASSAGE
DEEP TISSUE - FOOT REFLEXOLOGY
LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE

To relieve:

STRESS, NECK & BACK PAIN, HEADACHES
SPORTS & JOB RELATED INJURIES

0407 662 044

1863 Mt Nebo Road, Mt Nebo 4520
(Next to Boombana Café)

Health Fund Rebates - ATMS Member

A STORY FROM TREASURE ISLAND

To the person who left an unopened 1993 bottle of Lindemans Pyrus on treasure island.

We enjoyed the wine very much and spent a lovely time surveying the view, sipping the wine and shooting the breeze.

By the looks of the bottle it had been buried underground for years and we were amazed to find the cork came out perfect.

Many thanks and could we please have another one?

Yvonne

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - ROAD CLOSURE

A notice was published in the Queensland Government Gazette No 66, dated 7 November 2008, at pages 1214-1215, in regard to an application for the permanent closure of an area of about 2280m² being part of Mount Nebo Road abutting the eastern boundary of Lot 6 on Plan SP188034 (parish of Sahl, locality of Mount Nebo) and shown as Lot 4 on Plan AP17621.

The purpose of the proposed permanent road closure is for the establishment of a rural fire brigade station for the Mount Nebo Rural Fire Brigade.

Views are being sought from the following interested parties:

- Moreton Bay Regional Council (Pine Rivers District)
- Energex Limited
- Powerlink
- Telstra
- Adjoining owners.

The latest date for effected parties to lodge an objection is 18 December 2008. Any objections received may be viewed by other parties interested in the proposed road closure under the provision of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

The Department of Natural Resources and Water will decide this application.

Comment can be made to either Geoff Wilson MP (State Member for Ferny Grove) at ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au or PO Box 114, Arana Hills, 4054 who will pass the concerns on; or a direct submission can be made to:

Attention: Randal Hart
Regional Services Director
South East Region
Locked Bag 40
Coorparoo DC QLD 4151

NAOMI LEAVES MT NEBO

Well the time has finally arrived! Naomi Porter, the owner of Tibooburra is moving from Mt Nebo after 37 years. Bill and Naomi had wanted to move to Mt Nebo since they got to know the 'Mountain' in the 1960's when Bill was the overseer of the installation of electricity up here. Naomi and Bill purchased the original 21 acre block from the Curtis family and named it Tibooburra. They first built the shed and used it as a 'weekender' whilst they cleared the land in preparation for building their home. They moved to the mountain proper once the house was built in April 1971. They lived here happily, working the property growing lots of vegies until Bill's health deteriorated. In the 1980's they decided to subdivide into a Community titles scheme (the first on the mountain) as they could no longer work the entire property. This was achieved in 1984 and today, Tibooburra is a Community Titles property of 4 homes.

Over the years Naomi has been a great member of this community. She was the secretary of the Mt Nebo Progress Association (as the Residents' Assoc was then known) when they fought to have the Goat Track reopened in 1981 (sense of Deja vu). The Goat track had been closed since the 1974 floods! She's been a big help to many resident's for many years, cooking and delivering meals to those who couldn't get out and about, taking people to doctor's appointments etc. and generally being a good neighbour.

Naomi has seen many changes on the Mountain and loved and lost many friends over the years and now (after many previous attempts) has sold her house with the lovely garden and views to move down to the Bay that she's overlooked for the past 37 years.

Naomi, you will be sorely missed from the Mountain community, it won't be the same without you. We wish you well for the future. You will always be welcome here.

Di



To a Friend of the Mountain

From Mountain Friends...

Saying "Goodbye" to Naomi, our good friend and neighbour, who has been such an integral part of our mountain community for 40 years, is just impossible. We look forward instead to her visits back to us, with tales of her travels and eventual move into her new home in Sandgate.

Apart from her many community activities, the monthly church services organized in the hall, and years of service within and for the Residents' Association, Naomi will be remembered fondly for her Tiri Masu, and her very special bread & butter puddings (hic). Most of all she will be remembered for her ever-smiling, happy face and incredible generosity.

There are not many gardens on this mountain that do not have a piece of Naomi's garden embedded somewhere within. Some new owners may not even know it. We've always envied those green fingers! And so, part of Naomi will always be physically with us, as well as in our hearts.

We can't say goodbye.

Instead, we say

Fare Thee Well, Naomi - our love fares with you.



REMEMBER IN CASE OF FIRE:
Telephone **000**
then **Terry Bradford: 3289 8181** or
Bob Snowdon: 3289 0150



School News

The year started with a large number of Prep students enrolled, nine in total, compared with one in 2007. Hopefully this is the beginning of an upward trend in enrolments. If enrolments remain between seven and nine each year for the next few years, it gives the school a healthier cohort of students in each grade.

Thanks to a successful Federal Government grant our fabulous Chaplain Mrs Tish Cookson started at our school in January. Tish has been working very hard teaching social/emotional skills from our You Can Do It! Program with all students from Prep - Year 7. The funding for our Chaplaincy Program is in place until the end of 2010, so next year a focus will be to work with the P&C Association and the wider community to ensure fundraising is in place to continue this very worthwhile initiative.

There have been numerous leadership opportunities for the students with the annual trip to the National Young Leaders' Day for Year 7s in March and attendance by our student council executive at the Ferny Hills Cluster of Schools Leadership Camp. Mountain Buddies has also provided a great pathway for the Year 4-7 students to share skills with the Prep - Year 3 students and often the sharing of knowledge was mutual. The Year 6 students are currently working through some leadership activities in preparation for their role as Student Leader in 2009. To the Year 7s, congratulations on reaching another milestone. I wish you every success as you move on to high school.

We once again joined forces with our small school cousins to compete in Cross Country and Track and Field carnivals at Cluster and City District levels. Our soccer team which comprised of boys and girls in year 4, 5, 6 and 7 were strong competitors in the local Year 6 boys competition at The Gap this year. This was a lovely change from driving to places such as Windsor and New Farm for a game of soccer. Our school Sports Day was a huge success with participation from everyone including parents and teachers. Go Wattle!!

Our Parent Information Night, Grandparent Morning, Drop In night, Prep Information Night and Prep Play Morning proved to be successful in communicating 'how we do business'. These opportunities to invite new students, parents and other family members to school are a vital part of the partnership between school and home.

Parents have shared their skills, talents and interests this year with incredible support with various P&C fundraising projects, CSC programs, grant writing, weekly tuckshop, selling uniforms, working bees, coordination of the Ride to School Day in Term 1, Under 8 activities, the Year 4-7 overnight camp, Running Club, Education Week and teaching Science lessons. Our community has so many talented people, I invite you to continue to share your talents in 2009 for the benefit of our students and our school.

Community partnerships have also been strong in 2008 with assistance provided by MEPA, local cafes, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Bob Millar, Peter Dutton, the local Post Office, Queensland Ambulance Service (first aide for kids), Queensland Police Service (our Adopt-a-Cop), Emergency Services (Early Warning System), Mountain Reconciliation Committee (visit from Dr Penny Tripcony),

Link Up visit from Mick Angeles and Amy Atkins, Scripture Union with Chaplaincy coordination and The Gap RSL Sub Branch with support of our regular ANZAC Day Service and the donation of the foundation stone and funds for our new memorial. We also celebrated Education Week with Mother Nature as Principal for a Day, Chaplaincy Week, Queensland Week, School Cleaner's Day, Teacher Aide's Day, World Teacher's Day, raised just over \$230.00 for CanTeen and \$600.00 for the Heart Foundation in our annual Jump Rope for Heart participation.

The Investing in Our School project was finalised with additional work completed in the Multi-Media room, a new school sign and various pieces of furniture. Funding was also received from the Federal Government for a new flagpole and stage one of the campground re-development was completed with funding from the Moreton Bay Regional Council. It is hoped that there will be many more successful grants next year. If you can help, please contact the school.

What a year it has been at Mount Nebo State School. I didn't realise how much had been achieved until I paged through the 2008 diary in this, my last MTN article as Principal of our fantastic school. At the end of this year I will leave to take up a new post as Deputy Principal at Narangba SS. Mount Nebo has a huge part of life since my first acting principal stint in October 2000. I have many, many fond memories of my time on the mountain and value the relationships and friendships made through the years. To everyone who has been a part of my journey, sincere thanks. I wish you and your families all the seasons of joy in the future. In the words of my favourite songwriter Graeme Connors '...when it's all through, I'll be proud to stand here beside you, proud to remember being here'.

Cheers

Mr Kerry Lofgren

Principal

Mount Nebo State School

P: (07) 3289 8162

F: (07) 3289 8318

E: klofg1@eq.edu.au

Invitation

You are invited to attend a very special mountain event...

the consecration of a memorial to honour the fallen. This has been made possible thanks to a kind donation from The Gap RSL Sub Branch and is the only monument of its type in the Mount Nebo and Mount Glorious communities.

I would love you to join students, staff, parents and members of The Gap RSL Sub Branch at 9.00am on Friday 5 December.

The service should be concluded by 9.30am with a morning tea afterwards.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by Thursday the 4th of December.

Kerry Lofgren, Principal
Mount Nebo State School
(contact details above)



D'Aguilar Range National Park News

Footprints in the dirt show more wildlife on the move

Wildlife detectives armed with a pile of dirt and a sieve have been tracking animal movements in D'Aguilar National Park.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rangers chose 30 places in the D'Aguilar Range at one-kilometre intervals where they spread the sieved dirt, checking every morning for four days what animals had left their tracks overnight.

The surveys, conducted several times a year, provide rangers with valuable information about animal movements to help develop park management strategies. The survey in October revealed a substantial increase in wildlife activity compared with previous local surveys. Rangers believe the rise may be due to warmer weather.

Many tracks were made by native birds and reptiles, such as brush turkeys and goannas. Others were left by feral animals, including foxes, cats, pigs and several dogs. EPA rangers have followed up the survey by strategically positioning cat and pig traps to control these pest animals.

Summer fire program

The D'Aguilar summer planned burn program will be expanded to include areas that were scheduled for burning earlier this year. Due to high levels of autumn rainfall, many planned burns were delayed or did not burn successfully. Rangers will target areas overgrown with wattle species to restore the natural grassy forest understorey. Although wattle is a native plant, in high densities it replaces grassy vegetation and is not a desirable habitat for local wildlife, such as wallabies and many species of birds.

Funds received for Madeira vine control

EPA rangers recently received funding to help control Madeira vine at Mt Nebo. Madeira vine *Anredera cordifolia* is one of the most threatening weeds to rainforests and waterways. The plant can grow up to a metre in length per week, vigorously climbing and smothering its host tree. Madeira vine develops masses of potato-like tubers which can break branches and small tree trunks with their weight. Infestations near waterways can also cause erosion and reduced water quality, with host tree roots no longer able to support the soil. The funding will provide herbicides, staff time and contractor hire to remove and destroy the vine. Residents removing the vine from their own gardens are reminded that precautionary methods should be taken to reduce spread of the weed. The best ways of destroying the seeds and tubers is by decomposing them in a covered drum full of water or burning them.

Summer Go Bush program

The exciting new seasonal Go Bush program will be published soon. Book early for a range of children, adult and family activities. To find out more about specific activities in the D'Aguilar Range call 1300 130 372 or email brisbaneforestpark@epa.qld.gov.au and ask to be added to the Go Bush email list.

From the Fossa archives



The Cafe Boombana; how it looked in the late 1960s early '70s with 'Tucker Box' written on the fascia. Established by the Bradford family as a Cafe, Shop, Post Office and petrol outlet. Note the fuel bowsers in front, and the word Boombana was also in use at the time.

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email us at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mountainfolk>

(Say hello and tell us who you are in your email)



Councillor's Column

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST UPON US

By the time this edition of the Mountain News reaches readers, we will be within a few weeks of yet another Christmas and I'm sure like me, you all wonder where the past 12 months have gone. There is also no doubt that the older we get the faster they come around. It has been another year of considerable achievement for our communities right across the region and one that has no doubt brought many challenges to all of us, not the least of which has been dealing with all of the aspects of the creation of our Moreton Bay Regional Council. I look forward with enthusiasm to working with you all in 2009 to make our substantial part of the world an even better place in which to live. As this is the last edition of the Mountain News before Christmas, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families a holy, enjoyable and safe festive season and a hope that the New Year is kind to you all.

GOAT TRACK MEETING

Having arranged the meeting held on 19th November to enable a higher level of community engagement and information than that afforded through my regular updates on the state of the Goat Track, I am pleased that so many residents of the Mt Nebo area were able to attend. The meeting provided an opportunity for residents to receive a comprehensive briefing from experienced Council road maintenance, traffic and construction engineers and for these officers to discuss openly with residents the various issues they face in their professional capacities. Residents were similarly able to convey their feelings and expectations for the future of the Goat Track along with all the issues that are part of day to day life on the mountain in which the Goat Track plays an important part. The condition of the Goat Track is under constant review and council officers will be further considering what options for its future use best satisfy sound engineering principals, the community's preferred interests and above all, the safety of the community once the safety audit required following the coronial enquiry of late 2004 is completed along with a number of other engineering tests that are being undertaken. It is clear to me from discussions with the council officers subsequent to the meeting that they appreciated the valuable contributions made by a number of the audience and that, subject to the various issues with which they have to contend, they will be doing all within their power to meet the communities expectations on the matter. This is all we can ask of them and it is important for those who have nothing at stake in the matter except the satisfaction of personal wishes, to recognise that other stakeholders do have responsibilities that must be upheld and which at times may necessitate decisions that may not rest comfortably with them. As advised at the meeting, I will be convening a further meeting in the new year once Council officers and external consultants have completed the various studies required. In the meantime the track will receive another grading to improve its current condition.

COUNCIL SERVICES

Council offices will be closed from 3pm on Wednesday 24th December and will open again on Monday 5th January. Whilst I will be around for most of the holiday period, access to Council services continues to be available via the 'After Hours' number 3480 6666. During this period Rates and Dog Registration accounts can still be paid on line or via most Post Offices.

GREEN AND CLEAN

Council have produced a fact sheet called Your Natural Cleaning Guide. This Guide gives safe and effective cleaning ideas using normal ingredients found in your home. Natural cleaning or 'green cleaning' is a way to clean your home with fewer cleaning products – producing less waste and reducing the need to use chemicals. If you would like a brochure please call 3480 6455.

SHAFT – SUPER HOLIDAY ACITIVITES FOR TEENAGERS

Pine Rivers District students Grade 8 – 12 who live or attend school in the Pine Rivers District can again participate in the vast range of holiday activities. The activities are subsidised by council making them more affordable and accessible for students. Bookings open on 2nd December for activities from 12th to 23rd January 2009. For more information visit our website at <http://moretonbay.qld.gov.au> or you can phone 3480 6666.

Hoon Line

If you see hoons or other dangerous road users call the police (The Gap 3511 0077, or Ferny Grove 3851 4499).

If it's possible and safe, get a description of the vehicle and number plates.

If they have resources available at the time, police should respond.



Season's Greetings
from Bob Millar (Div 11)

Moreton Bay Regional Council
Incorporating Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe

Council Services: 3480 6666

Councillors Office: 3480 6455
E: bob.millar@moretonbay.qld.gov.au
W: www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

The Wilson Report

Storm Damage

The devastation and heartache caused by Sunday's storm is uppermost in my mind as I write this month's column. I've been out and about, knocking on doors, talking to residents, listening to their concerns, and if one thing has really hit home, it's our wonderful community spirit. I've seen neighbours reaching out to each other, people who've never met lending a helping hand and a generosity of spirit that's truly humbling. The storms may have caused widespread damage but something wonderful has shone through - old-fashioned goodness. Our Mountain community has it in abundance.

While you've been busy trying to restore some sense of order back into your lives, I have been busy lobbying for you. As a result, the Building Services Authority and the Department of Communities have opened a joint shopfront centre at the Keperra Baptist Church, 980 Samford Road, Keperra. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. BSA staff will provide advice to homeowners on household repairs, and Department of Communities' staff will be on hand to process applications for assistance.

If you're in need of help or information, call into the centre. There are people there who can provide advice and assistance to help you get through these difficult times. My office is also available to help anyone who needs further information. You can also call the Department of Communities Disaster Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

An Energex worker summed up the extreme nature of Sunday's storm when he said it was the worst storm he'd encountered in over a quarter of a century. More than 6,000 lightning strikes were recorded at the height of the storm with wind gusts up to 130 kilometres an hour, heavy rain and hail. It was a potent mix and it cut a devastating path of destruction across our region, bringing down hundreds of kilometres of powerlines.

To those of you who have suffered storm damage and don't know where to turn, please don't hesitate to contact my office. We're here to help.

Traffic Report: Action On Samford Road

Samford Road is an important stretch of road and I am delighted to advise of four particular areas in which I am working with the Department of Main Roads to deliver improvements for our local community.

1. Following my representations, the Department of Main Roads have recently introduced timing changes to the traffic signals at the intersection of Samford Road and Ferny Way during lighter traffic conditions, in order to allow a greater flow of traffic.
2. I am continuing to lobby the Department in relation to improving road safety on Samford Road, particularly adjacent to the Ferny Hills Tennis Centre and an investigation is currently under way regarding this particular area.
3. I am sensitive to the need for cyclist safety on Samford Road and have communicated this to the Department, who are looking for ways to encourage cycling and ensure safety.

4. The intersection upgrade of Camp Mountain Road & Samford Road may have the potential to include improvements for cycling access and I will continue to work with the Department of Main Roads in relation to this possibility.

I am always happy to hear your suggestions and concerns in relation State Government roads so please feel free to contact my office.

In closing, I welcome people contacting me with their views and seeking information or help with any State Government matter. Telephone me on 3851 1570, fax me on 3851 1261, email me on ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au, or check out my website, <http://geoffwilsonmp.com> My Electorate Office is at 3/6 Nepean Avenue, Arana Hills - next to the Caltex Service Station (office hours 9:00 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 5:00 pm week days).

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**WILDLIFE CARE AND RESCUE
CALL PENELOPE ON 3289 0085**

Working with our local community

Geoff WILSON MP



**State Member for
Ferny Grove**

ELECTORATE OFFICE:
Nepean Centre
Unit 3/6 Nepean Ave
Arana Hills

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

Tuesday night by appointment

Tel: 3851 1570 Fax: 3851 1261
Email: ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au

YOGA IS STILL ON at the Mt. Nebo Hall
Monday's at 7- 8.30 pm and Friday's at 10am -11.30.
All ages welcome. For more info phone Jeanne on 32890235

FOR SALE - STRAINER POSTS, recycled house stumps, good solid timber, \$20.00 each. Can deliver. phone 3289 0020

CHILDREN'S CAR SEAT FOR SALE - Safe-n-Sound maxi rider \$70 phone Sue 3289 0098

FOR SALE - 1 x Cedar PVC EcoBlinds 180cm wide x 137cm drop \$60; 1 x working Upright Small Chest Freezer \$25; 1 x 3 seater SofaBed,VGC, \$140; 3 x handbags VGC \$5 each; Black Suede Jkt with a little mark on it, hardly worn \$40; Size 12 Wedding outfit (dress, wrap, veil, tiara, bag) \$300; Retro 1970s ski outfits, 1 male, 1 female \$80 for both. Can email photos katerush@minilease.com.au or Tel 3289 8228 Kate Rush.

CHILDRENS DRUMMING CIRCLE - Sunday 14th. December, 4pm - 5.30pm. Children of all ages welcome. Come have Fun!! Drums and Rattles supplied. Bookings essential. \$5.00 per child. For more info. Ph. Maureen Lyell Deer Farm. 3289 4270

NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONIAL FULL MOON DRUMMING CIRCLE - Saturday 13th. December, 7.30 - 9.30 pm. All Welcome. Adults \$10.00 N/C for Children. Ph. Maureen for more information 3289 4270

PAINTING CLASSES - Beginner's watercolour classes by artist Janette Bailey. Easy, fun, creative. For more information please call Janette on 3289 8251

MT NEBO COMMUNITY EXCHANGE SYSTEM (CES) is a non-profit community exchange system for sharing skills & is based on the idea that all people have valuable skills to share with their community, whether they are under-employed, unemployed or retired. HOW to make use of the communities true wealth - the skills & services of the people, without the use of money. Join CES \$FREE at www.community-exchange.org e: nebo@community-exchange.org

WANTED: HOUSE TO RENT - A family of four are looking for a rental home that would be available before the start of school next year. If you know of anything suitable please contact Rachael or Brock either by email: rbjgclan@gmail.com ph: 3851 4446 or mob: 0408 469613.

1st. Wednesday of the month - Mt Nebo Residents' Association meeting at the Hall. 7:30pm

2nd. Monday of the month - Mt Nebo P&C Assoc meeting at 7pm ASC Bldg. (No meetings in School Holidays)

Every Wednesday - Playgroup every Wednesday, 10am noon at Mt Nebo Hall, \$2 per family, babies, toddlers, preschoolers welcome, please bring a plate to share.

2nd Saturday of the month - Working Bee at the Community Hall 10 am - 12 midday. Please come along and help maintain the hall & gardens - jobs for everyone to help with.



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Samford Central Shopping Centre 07 32891888

Submission details

Di Clark - 3289 8309

Steve Reinthal - mountain_news@yahoo.com.au

Please submit all articles by the 20th of the month to the Mt News Box located at the Post Office at Mt Nebo or e-mail, by the 23rd of the month to mountain_news@yahoo.com.au. Please supply your e-mail article with MTN in the Subject . Put articles in the body of the e-mail, as attachments can be messy. Pictures should be in JPEG or TIFF format, with a minimum resolution of 300dpi, copy in TEXT. *Please* don't send us MSWord ".doc" attachments or even worse, fancy schmancy things done in MSPublisher. How did that software ever get allowed out?? And now, there's .docx!! WTF is that? We really mean this bit. We hate Microsoft Word because it should be hated, we want to hate it, and we can, oh look, now you've got us started agin on Microsoft! PLEASE just don't do it, but you are probably going to totally ignore that request anyway aren't you? Why not? Everyone else does. You aren't actually even reading this are you? Were just muttering to ourselves...The articles in the Mt News reflect the views of the contributing authors and not necessarily those of the Mt News Committee (except the bit about hating MS Word). If you are actually reading this, you're actually the third person to ever do so, or else your the 1st or 2nd reading it again!! but hey, what's up? Either you need to get a library card or you really do care. Thank you. Crochet is good too but like a song you need a good hook, especially for doing sharp hospital corners on lamingtons

We use advertising as a service to the community and as a way to cover costs.

We have two levels of advertising—classified and display. Classifieds are by donation. Display advertising is still charged at the following ridiculously low rates:

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|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1/8 page: | \$15.00 per issue | \$135 per year |
| 1/6 page | \$20.00 per issue | \$180 per year |
| 1/4 page | \$30.00 per issue | \$270 per year |
| 1/2 page | \$60.00 per issue | \$540 per year |

Classified ads by donation.

Have a say in your future

Now is the time to have your say on how Moreton Bay region develops over the next four years by having some input into council's corporate plan.

The draft version of council's Corporate Plan 2009 - 2013 will be on public display from Monday, November 10 to Friday, December 12 at council libraries and customer service centres.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said the corporate plan was like a "road map" for council, because it outlined a strategic direction for the future.

"Its importance is that it will shape how we develop and cater for a rapidly expanding population while retaining the values our residents say are important," he said.

Cr Sutherland said the plan, which will assist decision making and policy development within council, takes into account local and regional issues, growth management and sustainability issues.

"Because our operations have a direct impact on ratepayers, we'd like them to look at our draft corporate plan and have some input into how this region takes shape," he said.

"We're still a new organisation and we'd welcome residents' feedback on a range of services and initiatives council plans to deliver.

"This plan will help shape everything from how we formulate budgets to what environmental policies we develop.

"It will help us plan for future infrastructure and services. If you don't plan for these things, you just won't have them in the future."

Once the period for public comment closes, council will amend its plan before it is put to councillors for adoption at a general meeting.

To have your say, fill in a form online through council's website at www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/corporateplan or lodge your submission at one of council's district offices.

ENDS

Jenny Napier
Media, Marketing and Communications Unit
Tel: 5433 2332

Date: 7 November 2008

Library appeal to benefit community

A MORETON Bay regional libraries appeal will help return overdue books while benefitting a local charity.

Mayor Allan Sutherland has asked people to return outstanding books during November so they can be put back in circulation for other library users.

He said the returns would co-incide with a library appeal for users to donate a gold coin to charity.

"The gold coin appeal is called 'dig out - dig deep' and it is aimed at getting outstanding users - as well as other library customers - to dig out their books and return them while digging in their pockets for a gold coin."

Cr Sutherland said monies raised from the appeal would be donated to the Chaplaincy Service which supports schools across the Moreton Bay region.

"The overdue books appeal will allow the books to be back in circulation for library customers while the donation to the Chaplaincy Service will benefit the whole region," he said.

ENDS

John Shears
Media, Marketing and Communications Unit
Tel: 3283 0209
Fax: 5420 0388

Date: 7 November 2008

Compost bins become cheaper

Moreton Bay Regional Council's compost bins have become cheaper.

Commercial Enterprises Committee chairman, Cr Brian Battersby, said new 225 litre compost bins were now available from Council's Strathpine administration centre for \$35 inc GST.

"The 225 litre bin replaces the 335 litre model which is no longer available," he said.

"The new bin still allows residents, community groups and schools to make their own compost and therefore reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

"The smaller size means this service can be provided at a lower cost - and that is good news for the community and the environment."

Council's Strathpine administration centre is located at 220 Gympie Road, Strathpine. For more information phone 3480 6666.

ENDS

John Shears
Media, Marketing and Communications Unit
Tel: 3283 0209
Fax: 5420 0388

Council encourages residents to review recycling habits

Moreton Bay Regional Council is encouraging residents to work out how they can improve their recycling habits during Planet Ark's National Recycling Week this week.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said recycling was one thing all residents could do to help address climate change.

"The more we recycle the greater the environmental benefit, because we're cutting back on waste and saving vast amounts of water and energy," he said.

Cr Sutherland also said it was important for residents to "recycle right" by making sure they were putting the right things into home recycling bins.

"Putting the wrong items into household recycling bins contaminates the entire contents of the bin and reduces the effectiveness of the recycling process," he said.

Tips on what items can be recycled in household recycling bins are available on council's website at www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Council's sustainability spokesperson Councillor Rae Frawley (Div 6) said that recycling could extend well beyond using household recycling bins and she encouraged people to investigate the Pine Treasure Market at Old Gympie Road, Dakabin and The Recycle Shop at McNaught Road in Caboolture.

"Residents should also think about whether things they no longer need might be useful to someone else in the community before they throw items away," she said.

"If items can be given to charity shops or swapped between neighbours then we are doing our bit to reduce our consumption and our impact on the environment."

National Recycling Week runs from November 10 to 16.

Jenny Napier
Media, Marketing and Communications Unit
Tel: 5433 2332

Date: 14 November 2008

Council sticks with Crime Stoppers

CRIME Stopper stickers will be placed on all Moreton Bay Regional Council operational and heavy vehicles. Staff with private use vehicles also will be encouraged to display the stickers.

The move follows a request to council from Crime Stoppers who will provide the stickers free of charge.

Division 7 councillor, David Dwyer, said Crime Stoppers was a non-profit organisation which relied on local volunteers to raise funds and manage day-to-day operations.

"The organisation plays an essential role in helping to maintain law and order in our community and the council is happy to help spread the message. The stickers will not include nor sponsor any form of advertising," he said.

Council will review the sticker arrangement after two years.

Police support Crime Stoppers through local groups as well as at state level and administer the free Crime Stoppers telephone hotline for members of the community to provide anonymous information about criminal activity. Rewards of up to \$1000 are paid for information leading to an arrest.

Crime Stoppers can be contacted on 1800 333 000.

ENDS

Date: November 20, 2008

Vigilance helps keep mozzies at bay

Recent rain is likely to bring mosquitoes in coming weeks, and Moreton Bay Regional Council is asking residents to help it keep the number of insects down.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said council had already carried out a number of aerial treatments across the region to reduce the number of mosquitoes and it was now concentrating on carrying out groundwork.

"But residents can help us fight mozzies, by making sure there's no stagnant water lying around their back gardens," he said.

"By emptying pots, buckets and removing water lying around in your back yard you'll be reducing the places where mosquitoes breed."

The recent heavy rainfalls and high tides are providing the ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

Residents are advised that to reduce the likelihood of being bitten, they should use appropriate insect repellants, wear long sleeved clothing and long trousers and limit the amount of their activity outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most prevalent.

ENDS

Council remains on alert for storm damage

Moreton Bay Regional Council is urging residents to prepare for more storms this weekend by securing loose items in their yards and making sure they have properly stocked emergency kits.

Moreton Bay Regional Council staff have been rostered on this weekend so that they can continue clean up work and be ready to assist should predicted storms cause further damage.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said there had been a fantastic response to calls for help so far with Australian Defence Force personnel stepping in to assist council staff and SES volunteers with the clean up task in the region.

Affected areas in Moreton Bay region include Albany Creek, Eatons Hill, Ferry Hills, Everton Hills, Bunya, Camp Mountain, Arana Hills, Narangba, Burpengary, Morayfield, and Scarborough.

Residents should make sure their yards were free of items that could be picked up and tossed around by high winds.

Residents should also make sure they had a properly stocked emergency kit at hand.

The kit should be kept in a waterproof container and include items such as:

- A battery operated radio with spare working batteries
- A torch with spare batteries, candles and water proof matches
- First aid kit and manual, and combination pocket knife;
- Medications, toiletry and sanitary supplies and a change of clothes.
- Money, including change for phone calls
- Strong plastic bags (for clothing, valuables, documents, and photographs).

Residents should also keep handy a list of emergency phone numbers handy, including numbers for local Police, Fire, Ambulance, State Emergency Service, Local Council, Gas and Electricity Company and relatives.

Store important documents (eg wills, passports, photos, birth certificates) in a fire/water-proof container or safe deposit box.

One-stop shops have been established at the PCYC at Everton Hills and the Narangba Community Hall.

The centres will operate from 7.30am to 7.30pm on Saturday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday, then 7.30am to 7.30pm for at least the next week to provide affected residents to access to information and advice about support services and financial assistance.

Corporate Plan outlines MBRC's future vision

Residents have until December 12 to offer their input into Moreton Bay Regional Council's draft corporate plan that aims to give the new council direction for the next four years.

The corporate plan provides an overall vision for council's operations and covers areas of future planning including social and community wellbeing, the environment, regional and economic growth and governance.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said sustainability was a major theme of council's draft document which outlines a vision, mission statement and core values as well as strategic outcomes.

"We feel that striving to make our communities sustainable is a key function of council, but this is the chance for residents to let us know if this is important to them," he said.

"Any feedback will be considered and a final version of this document will be approved by council next year.

"It will give our new council the foundation from which to make decisions that are consistent with an overall vision for the region."

Council's draft vision is for Moreton Bay region to be one of opportunity where sustainable communities enjoy work, recreation and lifestyle while council's mission statement is to serve the community while focusing on excellence and sustainability.

For further information or to comment on the plan, either visit your local library or district office or see council's website at www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

ENDS

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